TL2023

The Director
Radio Netherlands
Hilversum
Holland

Dear Sir,

We, the undersigned, a group of young East Timorese nationalists, faithfully expressing the noble feelings of our people, wish to bring the following to your attention:

1. Radio Netherlands is a highly respected, loyal and accurate voice, broadcast in different languages, whose echo is listened to throughout the world, especially in East Timor.

2. The Indonesian language service has served, in effect, not only as a safe conduct for the people of East Timor, but also as a stumbling block in the way of many human rights abuses, such as arbitrary arrest, physical torture, systematic killings, etc., perpetrated by the Indonesian army on defenceless civilians, especially the young nationalists of East Timor.

3. If it were not for Radio Netherlands' continuous and systematic harsh condemnation, through its news broadcasts (especially those transmitted in Indonesian) about what is really going on in East Timor, then our native land today would surely be a slaughterhouse or cemetery full of tormented souls.

4. So, when it was learned that the Indonesian language service is soon to be closed, the people of East Timor generally, and the nationalist youth in particular, were overcome with great sadness, just as if we were about to lose a beloved friend, and we even felt like we ourselves were nearing our own dying hour.

5. Given the above, we young nationalists, again faithfully interpreting the noble feelings of the people of East Timor, respectfully urge you to authorise Radio Netherlands to continue its present broadcasts in Indonesian.

6. We thank you in anticipation of any consideration you might give to our appeal.

7. Finally, on behalf of our people, we are grateful for your time and attention, and for all the past news reports from Radio Netherlands on the events in East Timor.

Yours sincerely,

(signatures)